

REMARKS

This response addresses the Election/Restriction requirement mailed October 3, 2003, (Paper No. 8), with respect to the above identified patent application. The Examiner has indicated that Invention I is directed to claims 1-13, drawn to a hose, and Invention II is directed to claims 14-19, drawn to a method of assembling a hose.

Applicants provisionally elect the claims of Invention I, claims 1-13 for further prosecution with traverse. Accordingly, please cancel Invention II, claims 14-19 without prejudice or disclaimer.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all the species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 which states that "If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions." (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to applicant and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

In view of the foregoing, the election is made with traverse.

If the Examiner has any questions with respect to this communication, he is kindly urged to call the undersigned.

It is believed that no additional fees are due with respect to this paper. However, if any additional fees are required in connection with the filing of this paper, permission is given to charge account number 18-0013 in the name of Rader, Fishman & Grauer PLLC.

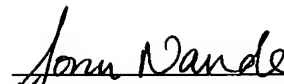
Attorney Docket No. 65857-0094
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PATENT

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 15, 2003

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